The Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project, the 2012 segment, is funded by the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for the Certified Local Government Program of Vermont’s annual program under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. Previously, Hartford’s agricultural oral history has been documented primarily through volunteers, often with interview recordings and transcriptions occurring at separate phases with different people. In 2009, additional historical research was provided through the 2009 Vermont Barn Census. The purpose of this agricultural oral history project is to document the history of local residents who grew up or worked on a farm in the Town of Hartford. The Town is comprised of five villages: White River Junction, Hartford, Wilder, Quechee and West Hartford, in addition to several smaller hamlets.

**TIME & TOPICS** | **TRANSCRIPTION**
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00:00:01 | KO: Today is Friday July 13, 2012. I am Kaitlin O’Shea and I am interviewing Barbara Bugbee and Scott Luce for the Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project. So I guess start with that story you just said.

Introductions | 
1945, CT River Road | BB: We moved to Connecticut (actually it wasn’t Connecticut River Road back then) – it was just River Road in May, 1945. It was just a few days or not too long into –
SL: The second day they were there.

Railroad accident | BB: They got in the railroad track and bunch of them got killed.
KO: Where did you move from?
SL: Jericho. Actually it’s Jericho Street now. I can’t tell you who owns the place now. It’s just horses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dewey Farm</th>
<th>Luce family siblings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BB: It was Fair Brother.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SL: It might be. I’m not sure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BB: They moved to Hanover so the kid could go to Hanover School. But now they built a new house somewhere.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SL: Across the road. I thought the people that owned it lived in Oklahoma or Texas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KO: Oh somebody over there might have mentioned it. I’ve been in Jericho a bit with the Millers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BB: Did you talk to Marty Lyman?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KO: Yea.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BB: So he kind of oversees that farm. That’s the Dewey Farm he does. Two down from there is where we lived. You were born there.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KO: How old were you when you moved over here?</td>
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<tr>
<td>BB: Six. And he was a baby.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SL: Two months.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KO: And where is the house that – oh –</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SL: It’s gone.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KO: I knew that.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL: Everything is gone. No buildings.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KO: And I might just pull thing that I remember from Carol’s [interview] to keep me on track. So there are six of you?</td>
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<td>SL/BB: Seven.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SL: Three separate generations, actually. There 25 years between Barbara and the youngest brother. There was only 3 and maybe 4 home at once.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KO: Were you two home together?</td>
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<tr>
<td>SL/BB: Yup.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KO: Okay. Right. Six and 2 months. Establishing a basis, good.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity, Delco systems</td>
<td>BB: We didn’t have electricity when we moved down there. We had the Delco system that did the milking machines.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milking cows</td>
<td>SL: Battery operating. The electricity came in charged the batteries and then it operated off the batters.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KO: Did it last for the whole milking?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: I guess so. They didn’t milk very many cows.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BB: I don’t know how many.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: I would think they didn’t milk more than 20.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BB: I don’t know that it says anything about that in mother’s report that she did.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KO: Your mother did an interview or wrote something?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cousins</td>
<td>BB: Yes. She did it with Tammy Ladd from the historical society.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KO: So your whole family is going to be in the historical society. That’s good.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: Our parents were each one of 15. So we are related to everybody in town and probably half the state of Vermont.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KO: So did you have a lot of cousins everywhere?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: Yes. Most of them were pretty local. When we went to school it wasn’t unusual to have at least two or three cousins in your class.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KO: Well that’s nice.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: No, it’s not nice because if you did anything wrong it got home before you.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KO: I guess I understand. I have three sisters.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: Nope.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily life on the farm; bathtub behind the</td>
<td>KO: So let’s start when you were kids – daily life on the farm. What were your-</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BB: I don’t think we had a bathtub in the beginning. I remember washtub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family home</td>
<td>KO: How old was the house? When was it built?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: It had to be in the 1700s. It had like 2.5” planks on the outside walls. When this man named Mr. Rice who used to live on Route 5, he was remodeling it, I asked him how come it had the big planks in there. They were 2.5” thick and anywhere from 20 – 24 – 26” wide. He said it was Indian protection. The arrows would not pierce them. It used to be a stage stop.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KO: Oh okay.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>King’s Highway</th>
<th>KO: How close was the house to the tracks?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Railroad tracks</td>
<td>BB: Pretty close.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: Probably 25 yards. We got so used to it. When we were kids there was a train every 15 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: Right. That was in the early ‘50s. They were still running the steam engines. The coal dust would start a fire on the railroad banks every now and again. Sparks.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KO: Did the dust fly into your house?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: I would imagine so. We never cleaned it.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BB: I would have said the length of this house –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: From the tracks? 25 yards is only 75 feet. It was probably closer then.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BB: I think it was. Aunt Hazel’s clothesline went from the house to the railroad tracks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SL: It was pretty close.

KO: That is close. I live close to the railroad tracks now, but it’s more like across the road and then two houses, and my house shakes as it is. I love it.

SL: They go faster now. My house – when you come through the interstate tunnel here, it’s the first one to the left. Now for years, I never felt it vibrate. And now the trains are going faster out of the yard, it vibrates.

KO: So your house didn’t necessarily vibrate then.

SL: Not originally. It was all set on rock bed so as fast as they go, the more vibration you get. I can’t wait for that speed train. Shake it off the foundation probably. Now did Harold tell you there was probably 40 farms in the Town of Hartford?

KO: He did not, actually.

SL: I would think there were 40 or more farms in the Town of Hartford in the early ‘50s. And when the bulk tanks came in, that’s when a lot of farmers went out. They didn’t want to spend that extra money to buy a tank to put the milk in.

KO: Because they’d have to get more cows and more expense.

SL: Most of the farmers in the early ‘50s in the Town of Hartford were very good business people. They didn’t have a large overhead because they used either horsepower or a very small tractor.

BB: I don’t remember when we had our first tractor.

SL: Had to be ’54.

BB: I was thinking in the very beginning that we had loose hay. Then you had this fork –

SL: -hay fork pulled it into the barn. And then you had a trip thing that you pulled and the hay came flying down and you mowed it away. We were too young to be in the haymow or haying out in the field.

KO: So who did that?

SL: Our dad and a hired man, usually. Our mother used to drive, when they had a hay loader, which was just a thing that stood 10 -12’ feet in the
family helps for chores

air and had a flat bar on it with these things that went up and down, and they would run up the windrow and pick the hay up. And then they had to work like crazy to take it off the wagon or whatever you were putting it on. And mother used to drive when they were doing that. It’s either you’re going too fast or you’re going too slow. That was the early ‘50s. Then we started chopping everything.

BB: I don’t know when we got the baler and went all the way. These are things I don’t remember.

00:09:50

SL: I would think ’54, ’55 were very changing times. The first tractor we had had steel wheels. It didn’t go very fast.

00:09:50

BB: I remember as a teenager, my job was to milk the cows because they still had hay to get in at night. We still were using the cans.

1950s changing times

SL: That was probably mid 50s. We changed over ’55–’56.

KO: That’s pretty early.

BB: I would have thought before that. But, no.

SL: No because when we milked the cows we couldn’t put a can in the tank full. So what we’d do is put a little milk in it and have more bales tied to them cans and tied to the tank so they wouldn’t tip over and be floating in there. We’d fill them and they’d start to sink.

KO: So the mid 50s was a big change for your family?

SL: For farming in general.

KO: Okay. What was significant about the mid 50s?

Small creameries, 1950s

SL: Compared to the other? A lot of the small creameries were going out of business. They handled the cans.

BB: Our cans in the beginning went over to Lebanon.

SL: You know where Doug’s Sunoco is on Route 4? It’s just past what would be the Miracle Mile Shopping Center.

KO: In Lebanon?

SL: Yup. Near Price Chopper. And a motorcycle shop on the right hand
Road paved
1970s

SL: Probably 70s. And the only reason it got paved, was because they used to haul gravel out here and it was a lot easier on the trucks. So Twin State Sand & Gravel paid for the materials and the town paid to have it put down. But they shared the expense and it was a lot easier on the trucks going out. Might be the mid 70s that it got paved.

BB: I would say earlier because my girls graduated in '76 and '77 and I think we blacktopped this maybe even by then. Before 1980 we did. I can remember coming back from a hockey game and Mary Rose got stuck out here.

00:13:53

Flooding: house

SL: We used to flood down below where the farm was. Every spring we used to walk up the railroad tracks to where the hillside is. Nobody wanted to drive the muddy water. The only thing that came through was the milk truck and the grain truck.

KO: So where was the house in relation to where we are now?

BB: You want to see where the house?

SL: We can do that later. It’s about a half-a-mile that way. When they bought the original place and had a second mortgage, they bough it from Russo. And Russo took the second mortgage. They bought probably close to 300 acres.

BB: We probably should have looked at mother’s thing before we started.

Farm acreage
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal farm in the 1950s</th>
<th>SL: I would think it was about 250-300 acres that he bought in ’45. Then as they built up their herd and decided to get numbers, they bought the second place up here, which was another 160 acres. So he had almost 500 acres for – not a lot of tillable land, but pretty much pasture. Where this house sits was pasture.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KO: Was that one of the bigger farms in the area?</td>
<td>SL: It was because it was like 1956, 57, 58, we milked about 72 Jerseys.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BB: The Wrights must have –</td>
<td>SL: They never milked more than 45 or 50. And that was a high number. The normal farm in the 50s was 20-25. Because if they got any bigger than that, they had to rent land somewhere – hay land somewhere away from the home. And nobody had trucks to haul. So they just kept their numbers down and controlled their overhead. Most of the farms in 1940s-50s, and even into the early 60s were all self-sufficient. You didn’t buy a lot of stuff. You raised a garden. A lot of people had apple orchards and stuff like that. They might even put a cooler in so they could keep their vegetables and fruit fresh. Probably ’62, ’63, ’64, a guy from Jericho ran out of corn. He was 76 and he was kind of hard on help. He couldn’t keep a hired man. He came down to see my father and said, “you’ve got to send one of the boys up to help me do my chores.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>KO: What was his name?</td>
<td>BB: Dad used to work for him when I was born. My father was working for that guy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Wallace</td>
<td>KO: How long did you help?</td>
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<tr>
<td>SL: Frank Wallace. Wallace Road, it’s where Jericho Road and Jericho Street come together. You turn off Jericho Street and it’s the next one. He milked 25.</td>
<td>SL: My junior and senior year in high school. Too long. I had to get up at 4 in the morning. I had to drive them. My dad worked for him for $15/week and I got $45/week. He was an amazing kind of guy. He was 5 and 5. Not five minutes to five, not five after five. 5:00 was when you started milking. Nothing else. No in between. And if it was one minute to 12, he’d look at his watch and say, you can get a currycomb, clean the cow off. By the time he walked in and walk back out, you never had to do anything.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>DHIA tested; Jersey herd</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:18:35</td>
<td>SL: We DHIA tested. That was ’67, ’68, ’69. We had a pretty decent average for Jerseys. Mr. Maxfield who lived in North Hartland said to my father, “What the hell are you feeding them?” He had Holsteins. They just weren’t doing a lot. We were higher on the sheet than him.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SL: Mr. Maxfield who lived in North Hartland said to my father, “What the hell are you feeding them?” He had Holsteins. They just weren’t doing a lot. We were higher on the sheet than him.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KO: Was it always a Jersey herd?</td>
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<td>KO: So your Dad preferred.</td>
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<td>SL: I’m not sure why. That’s what he grew up with. They didn’t have a big herd, but they had a cow or two they milked. With 15 kids, you’ve got to be self-sufficient.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KO: I can’t even imagine.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: Everybody burned wood. That was our Christmas vacation. We blocked wood up for the furnace for the next year, 25 cords.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KO: What was the Delco System?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: We went to visit my dad’s uncle, and he was going down the cellar. He was going down the cellar stores and she turned the light on. And he had, “I can see where I’m going. I don’t need that light.”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BB: He wouldn’t use electricity.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: He used to make butter and cheese up in Bethel.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BB: I don’t know if you’ve done that area.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: There was a lot of hill farms. Not a lot of cows per place, but 10 or whatever. And it was like here. There was a lot of places like that that had 10-15. Our neighbor over here, Mr. Melissi, worked for the railroad. And</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
we shared a fence. He was supposed to fix half and we were supposed to fix half. But his half never seemed to get fixed. We went over one day, it was like noontime. My dad said something to him and he said, “No, Albert I only milk the cows once a day. The cow – make the milk that go in the bag – where it gonna go?” I’ll never forget that. I wasn’t every old.

BB: I forgot that he talked that broken.

SL: Well, he was an Italian man. We grew up Slim McCloughlin. He was a trapper. And we had an old guy that lived up beyond him, McHutchins, who worked for the railroad and he had 10 or head.

BB: I don’t know.

SL: He didn’t ship. He just kept a few head. So, Slim, we were always a little leery of him. He was a big man. We’d see him coming and go the other way. But McHutchins, we used to pick blackberries and sell them on Main Street. That’s where we got our fair money, our spending money. We didn’t make a lot of money working the farm. We were part of the family. We were supposed to.

KO: Yea, you didn’t get paid to work.

BB: I always got up at like 5 with Dad. Way back then I drank coffee. I got in that habit of having sweets with the coffee and it was a hard thing to break later on.

KO: Is that what your Dad did, sweets with coffee?

BB: Yea, if there was cake or cookies or whatever there was. You had that with your coffee and he went out and milked the cows. I’d come back in at like 7:30 and get ready to go to school. And that’s when I would have my breakfast.

SL: They’d go out and work a couple hours, then have breakfast, then do the fieldwork or cut wood all winter.

BB: You did that too, right, when you were in school? You went to the barn.

SL: Yup.

BB: I used to feed the calves and stuff.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chores</th>
<th>SL: That was our job, taking care of the young stock.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>KO: Was that at a certain age? At a certain age you were allowed to help with the milking?</td>
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<tr>
<td>afternoon</td>
<td>SL: It depended who was there and who wasn’t there. For the most part, the morning chores were done by our father and a hired man. And in the afternoon, they did a lot of custom work for other people. They chopped corn, put in hay for other people and they weren’t home. So when we got home, if nobody was there, we’d start chores and keep going until they came.</td>
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<tr>
<td>chores</td>
<td>KO: What were the afternoon chores?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: You had to get them back in the barn. Feed them. And then get all the milking machines ready to go. Sometimes we didn’t have supper after milking. If father wasn’t home we didn’t have supper till he came.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KO: How did you keep track of which cow needed how much food and things like that?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BB: I basically didn’t ever grain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graining the</td>
<td>SL: When we grain them, you had an idea how much milk each cow made. So she got a percentage of poundage. One cow didn’t milk very good, she got one dish. Another did a little better, she got a dish and a half. Another might get two or three.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cows</td>
<td>KO: And that you could just keep in your head?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silage</td>
<td>SL: Keep in our head. The DHIA test did help. But we didn’t grain a lot. That was father’s job. Our job was to give them their corn silage and grass silage, which is very smelly. It doesn’t run off anywhere. You go in the house and it’s like, oh you’ve been in grass silage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
<td>KO: Did you have chickens or other animals?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BB: Mother had the chickens.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: 300 of the things.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KO: I haven’t heard anybody say they liked having chickens.</td>
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</table>
|                | SL: Well the worst thing was a Saturday morning when Mother would
Barbara Luce Bugbee & Scott Luce – Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rabbits</th>
<th>say to Father, the boys have to clean out the chicken house today. And that’s dusty job.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KO: Smelly?</td>
<td>SL: Not so much smelly, just dusty. We didn’t use a lot of sawdust in the chicken house. I don’t know how many of the brooders she had. We had a small 10x10 building and she got the little chicks. And then they started to get a little larger and they needed more space. So we go in there and they all moved to one corner and start stacking up. So now you have to flip them off each other, because they’ll smother each other. They’ll kill each other. They’re very delicate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KO: Where do you keep them?</td>
<td>SL: We had rabbits, too. We had two for pets, and all of a sudden we had 50. They didn’t stay around that long, maybe a year. How do you know a female from a male? We had two males. That’s what the guy told us. And in a year we had 50-60 year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbits</td>
<td>KO: Where do you keep them?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB: Now we have fisher cats.</td>
<td>SL: They pretty much range free. They started in the same barn, but there got to be too many. We populated Vermont with rabbits. There was a lot of wildlife around then and now there hardly isn’t any. We had coyotes, wild dogs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB: Now we have fisher cats.</td>
<td>SL: Some. You don’t see too many.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB: I’ve just heard them.</td>
<td>SL: They make a squawk like a crying baby.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SL: You can’t tell the difference. It’s awful.</td>
<td>KO: Did you hunt on the farm?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
<td>SL: Yup.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>BB: The boys did. I didn’t.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>SL: You used to be able to shoot a deer anytime you wanted. The game</td>
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Two remaining farms in Hartford, dairy farms

Basically the farming business in the Town of Hartford is about gone. There’s only two farms in the Town right now: Millers and my younger brother up here.

KO: Does your younger brother have dairy cows?

SL: Yes. But how long he can hang on is the question. He’s not big enough. He’s only still milking 50-60.

Milk prices

SL: See, milk prices. I couldn’t tell you what it went for 100lbs. I wouldn’t have thought it was $1 or $2 per hundred.

KO: The Millers might have explained that to me. They explained that the cost of production is going up but what they’re getting paid is not.

Cost of milk production

SL: It’s going down. And they do have organic farms. Yea, they get $28 or $30 a hundred. But the grain costs $500 a ton, vs. like $200. So where’s the margin? And the farmers in the State of Vermont are crazy. They have six tractors or more on their farm. They have one hooked to every piece of equipment that they own because they don’t like to hitch them back to something else. So their overhead is way out of whack.

KO: And the farms just aren’t big here.

SL: Some of them are up north.

KO: Like Newport?

Bigger farms elsewhere; lumber business

SL: Derby Line. Doug Nelson. They milk about 1,500 – 1,600. And Addison County, there are a lot of big farms. I can’t think of the one that’s making the energy from the manure, the gas. They milk about 1,500 – 1,600. Methane gas from the manure. Then they could use it for bedding. They dry it so they use it for bedding again. See it’s just like the lumber business. It used to be all kinds of waste products to the lumber business. They used to saw the slabs off the sides of the logs to square them off to make boards out of the 2x6s and the only sawdust they caught was the sawdust coming off their saw. And now they sell the bark. They

warden would come and put a metal tag on it. Destroying crops. It wouldn’t be anything to see 30-40 in a small area. And they wanted to get them thinned out a bit so they would do better. Ten years ago in the state of Vermont, it can’t be a spike horn anymore. It has to have at least 4 points to be able to have a legal deer in the field. They wanted them to mature more and the strong ones to make them

KO: What is the state of agriculture in the state of Vermont?

SL: It’s going to be hard to get a lot out of the state of Vermont. It’s going to be hard to get 1,000 out of them. I can’t think of anyone that has that many now. They used to have a lot of them up in Addison County. They used to have a lot of them up in Addison County. They used to have a lot of them up in Addison County.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Transcript</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:33:22</td>
<td>Forest management on property</td>
<td>de-bark them. They run them through a band saw, around and around. Waste slabs get ground up. They used wood chips for sawdust. They get like three extra products out of the logs. KO: That’s effective. SL: Yea. They are working smarter. KO: That’s good. SL: The bark usually goes down country.</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:33:57</td>
<td>Selling the house</td>
<td>KO: When you cut firewood, was it any type of tree on the property or specific? SL: Any kind of hardwood. We used to pick a section each year and clean out the undergrowth. KO: Like your own management plan? SL: Yea. And you didn’t take – if the tree looked like it was going to make a log, you left it. You took more of the junk trees: the crooked ones, the ones already diseased and dying.</td>
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<td>00:33:57</td>
<td>Changes in road layout</td>
<td>KO: It’s kind of a different question, but I like to think about your house because I like old houses. Do you know why your parents sold it? SL: Yea, this guy came along and he said, “Albert, I’m going to buy your farm.” He said, “You are?” And he made him an offer. And said, “I think you are going to buy it.” And the next year he came back and said, “Albert do you want to buy it back?” And he bought it back. BB: Not everything. SL: They traded 40 acres of land. That’s all. This guy owned the Smith place, which is neighbor to us. BB: On the other side. The road used to go over to North Hartland and come out by the covered bridge in North Hartland. And then the interstate, when that went through, it cut the road up. KO: Oh that’s why this a dead end.</td>
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| 00:35:29 Interstate construction | SL: The interstate didn’t really cut off. They just didn’t want to maintain it. There wasn’t very many people that use it.  
KO: Does it go through as a class 4 road?  
SL: No, because the gravel pit owns it and they have both ends blocked off. Now they put the bridge in off Route 5 over the interstate.  
00:35:29  
KO: So what was it like when the interstate was being constructed?  
BB: It was booming in town because you had extra people.  
SL: A lot of them lived here. A lot of them moved and stayed and went home weekends. As far as the change for us – it didn’t really change until the bridge went in across the Connecticut River. There used to be a hill. When you come through the interstate tunnel you went up a hill. It used to fairly level and then it dropped down, probably 25-30’. And then back up the hill. They encased a brook. They put it in up in back of the state sheds where 89 and 91 come together. It’s like a 5 or 6’ culvert.  
KO: Did you watch any of the construction?  
SL: I didn’t because I was in the service. It did affect how we came in after a while.  
BB: I don’t even remember for sure when that got built.  
SL: The interstate?  
BB: No the bridge. Oh, that would have been interstate, too.  
BB: I don’t know. Dates to me, unless I have something to go by –  
SL: Well, Sye’s house burned in January of ’65. That’s when I went in the service. I went to Manchester, had the induction physical, and came home and it was like 32 below zero that morning. I’m driving down the road to come home and I go by my uncle’s home and there was no house there. It had burned. It would have been like the 4th of January. We came back on the 5th.  
KO: Which branch of the service were you in? |
SL: Air Force.

KO: That was going to be my guess.

SL: Anyway, the construction company that was working on that interstate bridge. They came down and made the cellar hole and told him, anything he needed, to let them know. And they did help out a bit.

BB: And I think Larry was right. I went and looked at that article about the accident in the truck. I would have sworn that the 618 transportation company came down. He said no. When I went back looking at my papers, it doesn’t say that. But I thought they did.

SL: Nobody had a wreck big enough to pull the truck up.

KO: What happened?

SL: Tipped over.

BB: It was just up the road around the corner.

SL: In 1967, it was 52 years ago.

KO: What was the truck carrying?

SL: We shoveled gravel onto it. There was nine of us there.

KO: And it just? Was everybody okay?

SL: No, one got killed. He was quite a little rascal. And that morning was so quiet. When you think about things. He didn’t move from the spot.

BB: His father told him to hold on.

SL: He did. He stayed there all the time.

BB: If he hadn’t been holding on, he probably would have been okay.

SL: Well I don’t know where he would have ended up.

BB: Wouldn’t he have been with some of the other kids?

SL: He would have been further back. Our younger brother, we dug out of the gravel.
KO: Oh my goodness.

SL: We were trying to account for everybody. Dug him out of the gravel. My brother says, “Where’s Wesley.” I said, “You don’t want to know where he is.” He got pinned under where the dump trucks have the flat headboard on top. That’s where he was. He never knew what hit him. He was 6 or 7.

KO: So sad.

BB: But lots of cousins were on there.

SL: There was nine of us. There could have been 9 or 8 killed. We were on the gravel in the back.

KO: What were you shoveling gravel for?

SL: We were going to put concrete in the heifer barn up here.

BB: It was a rainy day, wasn’t it?

SL: It was a Saturday morning. We couldn’t hay but we could do that. We went up the steep hill, up the other way. And shoveled the sand and gravel on. We came down, stopped by the barn. Everybody jumped off but that one kid. He did not move from that headboard. And normally he’d be everywhere. That’s what we did. They made a road into the gravel and picked all the wood up, all that stuff. Many, many cords of wood. We had wood stacked from the gate of the railroad tracks – I don’t know how many.

BB: By the woodshed.

SL: That too. It was all along the railroad fence.

SL: We used to have young stock by the river over the railroad tracks. We had to make a fence on each end by the river so they wouldn’t go around it. One day this guy came and took a couple out of there.

KO: Stole your cows?

SL: Yea. The police came and said, “Albert, you missing any cows?” “I don’t know. Why?” That’s like two or three weeks afterwards. Went down and counted the young stock and there was two missing. The guy lived in Haverhill, NH and said he bought them. What caught him was he
Pasture in Quechee

Keeping track of animals

Visiting pastures

went to a fancy Jersey show and he loaded them. Wasn’t him. But he took the ear tag number of the ear – a little metal tag that was probably 1-1.5” long. The State used to do what they call Bang’s Disease test, where they vaccinated them when they were calves. The vet would come, put an ear tag number in them and vaccinate. They were recorded by the state but once they took the ear tag out you had no idea how to know who was vaccinated. Well this cow was registered so she had a tattoo in her ear, like a horse would have in his lip. So they caught him but they could only prosecute him for that one.

KO: Why only that one?

SL: They couldn’t prove where he got the other ones. This was right in the daytime that he did this. Normally there was somebody there and that day nobody saw a thing. He said he came and got them. Never got them back either. I don’t know what happened.

KO: Was that the only time that happened?

SL: We used to pasture a couple of critters up in Quechee. They butchered them underneath the brook in the culvert. I’m surprised it doesn’t happen more. I suppose people are lazy and don’t want to go out and work and get their meat.

KO: So did you have to keep track of all the cows everyday, even if they’re out to pasture in the summer?

SL: We pastured cows in Dothan, where Dothan Brook School is, in back of there.

BB: Sunday afternoon would be a time to make sure they all there.

SL: We’d take a bucket of grain. We had one stupid cow. Her name was Dolly. She was a gray cow. She stepped into a little streambed. It was probably foot deep. And she must have been in there all week because she pretty hungry and pretty thirsty. She walked along the thing but she would not step out. And all we did was took a hold of her and she stepped right out. She’s got to be the dumbest.

KO: She couldn’t figure it out?

SL: No, she didn’t try.

KO: Oh.

SL: The cows used to have their cows sometimes in the pasture. When we
get to one and there was like three or four and we didn’t get all of them that day. And when we got back, the calf was running with the deer and the deer were feeding that calf. Nursing the calf. It ran just like a deer. We used to do that all the time. We used to pasture cows everywhere. Holy mackerel, 15-20 here, 15-20 there.

**KO:** Is that because there wasn’t space?

**SL:** We didn’t have room enough here. And we hayed everywhere: towards Taftsville. We got hay from there.

**BB:** We used to do Betsy’s parents.

**SL:** But that was some for them and some for him. That’s how my brother met his wife. We went up and hayed there. We used to hay all over, probably 10 places. Mostly it was for other people. We needed 100 tons to keep hay for our cows for the winter. That’s a lot of bales.

**KO:** How many is that?

**SL:** How many is that? The average bale is say 40-45 lbs, so you’re talking like 100 would be 40. That’s 4,000.

**KO:** And you kept that all in one barn?

**SL:** Mostly.

**BB:** We have a big barn down here.

**SL:** Used to take five of us kids to put it to the top. Now they have an elevator that puts it up there.

**KO:** Is the barn still standing?

**BB:** That went down a long time ago.

**SL:** It burned. It was a little mysterious.

**BB:** Twin State bought the farm down there, Twin State Sand & Gravel. And they had a person live there and watch the house. Roger Henry. And he did all kinds of junk dealing. And I don’t know what did happen.

**SL:** I’m not sure who bought the farm. Lareau, bought it in late ’65. Sold it back to him in ’66, and came back and bought it again in ’67. We didn’t milk any cows for a while.
<p>| BB: My father worked at Cliffords. |
| SL: Cliffords Sand &amp; Gravel. |
| KO: Oh, okay. Where was the house when you left that house? |
| BB: Right up here. |
| SL: The farm you just came by – basically the barn is pretty much the same, but they built a new house a little further up the road. And then they built that’s up from here. And then they built a couple more right by the farm as they sold different things. |
| BB: Actually, I think they wanted to get Mike out of the house so they built two smaller houses. My problem brother that has the farm has been a problem for a long time. |
| KO: There’s always one sibling like that. |
| BB: That is the reason Dad went back into farming. He had to have something for this kid to do. He couldn’t keep him in school. He’s the only one of us that didn’t graduate. |
| SL: In Jericho along, on Jericho Street, there was a farm owned by Jim &amp; ?? Nott. Robinson. Wallace. Park. Dewey. And by then it was Arman Gauthier. And Albert Savage at the end. So 7 farms, from 30-50 cows along that road. |
| KO: And now there’s not. |
| SL: There’s none on that street. The Millers live on Jericho Road. |
| BB: He lives on Miller Road. |
| KO: Technically. |
| BB: The barn is on Jericho Road. |
| SL: No, it’s on the same. |
| BB: I thought he milked up at that same barn. He lives on his grandfather’s place. |
| SL: Chet Miller. |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk storage; standard feed</th>
<th>BB: And I don’t know if that barn is still there.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>SL: Yup. Still there. He milks like 10-15 over there. They make cheese.</td>
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<td>BB: When did Dad start having Holsteins?</td>
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<td>SL: It would have been after ’67, ’68 up here.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KO: Did he start farming up here?</td>
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<td>SL: They started with like 25 head again.</td>
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<td>BB: They had to keep adding on.</td>
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<td>SL: As he added on, he had to get a bigger tank. They pick your milk every other day. You had to have storage, and at certain times of year you made a lot of milk, sometimes not so much. Nowadays they don’t pasture anything. So all the cows get the same thing from January to January. It’s all cured. Nothing green.</td>
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<td>KO: Is that?</td>
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<td>SL: Balance. They are supposed to maintain better. Do better.</td>
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<td>KO: So how are things different, in your personal perspective, from living down on the bigger farm to when you moved over here?</td>
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<td>SL: We were all grown up. We didn’t have to work.</td>
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<td>BB: He was in the service. We built here in 1960, moved in January ’61.</td>
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<td>KO: Okay. And neither of you farmed when you left home?</td>
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<td>SL: We helped. Our dad was like ’65, ’66. He had a perforated colon first, at ’64, ’65. Then he had a triple bypass at about ’65.</td>
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<td>BB: I think he had a knee replacement before that. He wasn’t able to go to Clayton’s graduation, from high school. My dad got really sick. She took him in the morning. I was babysitting at the time. I was babysitting my grandkids.</td>
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<td>Father’s illness</td>
<td>SL: Anyway, he thought he had the flu. He went to the barn to milk the cows. He started milking and he felt really sick. He said he couldn’t stay the morning and he went to the house. He stayed till 10 or 11 and wasn’t getting better. He said he had to somewhere. He went to Hanover.</td>
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Nothing had been done yet. This doctor came in and started swearing. He said, where are the test results that you guys had all day? Couldn’t find them. He said, you got to move your butts because this man is going to die right in front of you. So from 4:00-6:00 they did all the tests they did all day. And they were operating. He had all that toxic poison. {Discusses father’s hospital stay.} My mother did a super job taking care of him.

BB: She did an amazing job the whole time.

SL: He wasn’t a great person to – he had always been doing what he wanted to do.

BB: Towards the end he got better at it because he couldn’t do anything.

SL: He was probably 83 or 84 and he said the toughest job he had was holding down the chair in the living room.

KO: When you’re used to moving all of the time.

SL: Yup. We often think we’re a little better than our parents and then you find yourself doing the same. You’re out in the sun at noon. That’s when you used to weed the garden. He’s doing other things in the morning when it’s cooler and at night he’d doing it again. So one day I was doing something and I said, my god, yup, it’s noon. Here I am out in the sun.

KO: Well become a little bit of our parents, I guess.

SL: We do. It’s quite amazing.

KO: Every so often, I go, “Oh my gosh, I’m just like my mother.” That’s okay, I love my mom.

SL: Our mother kept the books for the farm, all the years I did it. She didn’t cheat. If it was cash it went in the book. They sold a lot of hay over the years. They had to supplement their income. When we were kids, when I was like 6, 7, our dad plowed gardens in the spring. There was a pair of horses. We’d have a single plow, a small set of horses. We’d go up South Main Street and over to West Lebanon. He’d plow maybe four or five gardens that day. And he’d come home. And he probably got 10 bucks a garden, maybe. Money went a lot further in those days.

BB: I don’t know about when you did it. I did it a few times. I thought we took our lunch too.
SS: Oh yea, because you were gone all day. You left at least by 8. He’d have an idea of where he was going that day. And then somebody would come out and say, can you plow mine? He did.

BB: I got to play with kids on the street.

SS: Only one time we ran into a house.

BB: One time?

SS: The horses were hooked to the wagon, took off and drove the pole into the foundation. He didn’t make too much that day. But he was lucky that nothing happened, nobody got hurt.

KO: What other sorts of things did he do to bring in extra income?

SS: He cut corn for probably four different farms in the fall. We hayed for a lot of those farms, and put the hay in their barn.

BB: Peter Schaal, his farm.

SS: Albert Schaal, his father. You know where Pinnacle Lake is in Quechee? It used to be an active farm there.

KO: Did you have the equipment, is that why?

SS: Yup.

KO: So would people pay to rent it?

SS: No, they would go and use it. So they chopped into forage boxes that unloaded or dumped it in a truck. So you had like two or three people involved for that day, just to do it.

BB: In ‘59, Mother was driving one truck and I was driving the other truck, doing the corn here. I was pregnant and I couldn’t work. I worked for the telephone company and you couldn’t work after 6 months.

KO: Oh.

BB: I had a little girl that was 15 months old. We didn’t have car seats back then and they just bounced around in the truck then. And mother had my sister Carol plus-
SL: -probably Chris-
BB: and maybe Mike.

SL: Two would have been enough. They’d always be in the way, on the tractor trailer. We really didn’t sell a lot of firewood, not back then.

BB: I don’t think Dad ever sold firewood, did he?

SL: Oh I’m sure he sold a little there and there. But we didn’t sugar.

01:01:25

BB: But we didn’t sugar back when we were growing up. We did up in Jericho.

SL: We did.

BB: Where?

SL: Out back.

BB: I didn’t think we did until Dad was a lot older. My kids were growing up when we did the sugaring over here.

SL: The sugarhouse was there. We brought the sap from Jericho to here.

BB: I don’t remember sugaring her in the beginning.

SL: We probably had 500 taps.

BB: Is that where you sugared? Up there?

SL: both places. We sugared across the ?? house. It belonged to Parker, Woody Parker. That would have been in the early 60s.

BB: I was busy working and stuff.

SL: I couldn’t drive then. If you ended up on one end or the other, you were there for the day.

KO: Did you sugar for profit?

SL: A subsidy. The snow was a lot deeper then. Had nothing to do with us being shorter.

KO: I don’t know.
| Peddle eggs, market garden, groceries | **BB:** She used to peddle her eggs, too, and the garden stuff. If we had extra stuff she would peddle that.  
**KO:** Did she bring it to a market or peddle it other places?  
**BB:** Up South Main Street.  
**SL:** Eggs. That’s virtually where the groceries came from. We took 50, 60, 80 dozen to the store. And we bought our groceries. We took it one door and out the other.  
**KO:** Was that common for people?  
**BB:** We didn’t have big grocery stores back then.  
**SL:** It was a little family operation grocery store. We sold chickens that we killed. We dressed them. They couldn’t have any blood showing on them if we sold them to a store. So you had to take a chicken and take a paring knife and slid it through its beak, turn it so no blood was on the outside. Chop the head off. We did too many.  
**BB:** That’s an awful job.  
**KO:** I’ve heard that chickens run around without their heads. I always thought –  
**SL:** Oh they flop around after you cut their head off.  
**KO:** I’ve always thought that it was a joke. Recently I learned that it was not. |
| Grocery store; butchering chickens |  
**SL:** Farm life has changed, but not that drastically. There was more physical labor done in the 40s, 50s, into the early 60s. Now there’s not a lot – there’s a machine to do it, whether it’s a skid steer or whatever.  
**BB:** And barn cleaners. But we did have on eventually down there.  
**SL:** Used to take us like an hour, 10 minutes to clean the barn. Then we had cows on the gutter cleaner. By the time we brought it in, dumped it, couldn’t keep up. It’s like, what happened?  
**BB:** Those are the things that changed. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family traditions &amp; holidays</th>
<th>SL: It took like 15 minutes for that chain to go all the way around. Had rollers to put in there. Had to keep up.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KO: Did you have any favorite family traditions or big events?</td>
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<td>BB: Christmas was a family thing. Thanksgiving. I don’t remember Easter being that big.</td>
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<td>SL: Our immediate family. On Sundays we went sliding as a big group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relatives</td>
<td>BB: One of my aunt’s – her husband left her and she had four little kids. So they came to live in the apartment upstairs over us. So there was four cousins there and the cousins that had moved out of there, quite a while before that, that moved next door bought part of the farm with us. So we had enough to do anything we wanted to.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playing baseball</td>
<td>SL: We could play baseball, 6 on 6 pretty quick.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>BB: There was always enough kids around. It wasn’t like you had to go somewhere to be with a friend. It was all of us together.</td>
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<td>SL: You didn’t have to have organized stuff. You just went and did it. We weren’t allowed to go to the river.</td>
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<td>KO: Carol said that because your mom didn’t swim.</td>
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<td>SL: She swam. My dad swam. We weren’t allowed to go to the river unless was with us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BB: We were allowed to go to the brook though.</td>
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<td>SL: We went to the brook. We made dams.</td>
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<td>BB: I never learned to swim as a kid.</td>
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<td>SL: Always too busy.</td>
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<td>BB: Always haying.</td>
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<td>4-H</td>
<td>SL: Barbara, Larry and I were 4-H. We learned a lot, showed them all over the place.</td>
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<td>KO: Oh really? Traveled with them.</td>
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<td>SL: Yup. Showed them. The younger 3 or 4 didn’t do that. They missed out on a lot of things. That was part of the education.</td>
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<td>Attending school</td>
<td>BB: We were a poor family when we were growing up but we got to do a lot of things that money can’t buy. And then when the other ones come along – my sister never went to the barn to work.</td>
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<td>Chores inside the house; story about making biscuits</td>
<td>KO: She said that. BB: It was different. Then there was money that they could do things. My mom didn’t have a license until I was in 6th grade, I think. So I didn’t play sports. I was a shy little girl. We lived in Jericho. If I’d gone to school up there, I might have been okay. But to come down here in May and be only with parents and to be dropped off at school – I didn’t talk to my teacher until January. I cried everyday. I had never been away from my parents. And then you boys were happy to go.</td>
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<td>SL: Got us out of work. At an early age, we didn’t do that much. We did little things. At like 7 or 8, I could lead the horse with the hayfork. It wasn’t bad. All you’re doing is walking the horse out like 50 yards and walking them back.</td>
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<td>01:09:56</td>
<td>KO: Did you have responsibilities inside the house or did your mother take care of most things? BB: I probably did. I wasn’t allowed to do the washer. My aunt upstairs, Aunt Anna, she was glad to let me. I did it upstairs. But then when mother went to the hospital to have my brother Mike, the one who lives at the farm now, she said, just leave the laundry and we’ll do it after we get home. I said, forget it, I’m going to do it anyways. The only drastic thing that happened in that: my father had a bunch of loggers. They had their shack. He invited them for dinner or supper. It was strawberry season and I had never made biscuits. The first ones I made were really awful. They were really hard. I’ve since learned how. I’ll never forget that. Mother was really upset that he did that.</td>
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<td>01:09:56</td>
<td>KO: Putting you on the spot. BB: Here I am 13 years old and I’m cooking for a whole bunch. KO: Did you mom teach you how to cook after that? BB: I did a little bit, but I never had made biscuits. SL: She was fussy. She didn’t want a lot of mess. You didn’t get to do a lot. It was easier for her to do her thing. She did it. [phone rings].</td>
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</table>
Whereas my dad would let you do it as you learn. Experience is the only teacher. We didn’t take a tractor if he said it was too steep for us. We didn’t do it. He did it. It was just as dangerous for him as it was for us, but he had more experience and he’d do it. I was probably 13 or 14. All I did was condition hay.

Now the mower and conditioner are all together. Before we had a sickle bar. And we had a thing with two steel rollers to squeeze the juice out of it. So we’d condition it. And as soon as I finished conditioning it, I’d hook on to the tether and go over it again. And I’d hook on to the rake and we’d do another part that we mowed a couple days before that so we’d break it up. You’re always riding a tractor all summer. That’s all we ever did. Just keep on going.

You know if you’re headed up Route 4, you know where the Fat Hat is? It’s a clothing store.

KO: Sounds familiar.

SL: Clubhouse Road. Goes down over the hill to Quechee Village. We used to hay for a man named Meade there. We’d do that just about on our way by. We’d mow it in the morning. It didn’t need to be conditioned. We’d tether it and rake it up and bale it the same day because it was thin. We used to put hay in the barn where they sell dresses now. I was just there three weeks ago and my girlfriend was in Florida. I said, when I was a kid, we used to put hay in here. They’re probably sewing where the cows used to be.

SL: But when we were 12, 13, years old, that’s all we did was ride the tractor. So I’d mowed, conditioned, tethered, raked. And then bale it way up.

KO: So that was summertime. What about winter?

SL: In the wintertime. If we weren’t cutting wood, we had a lot of chores to do. You had to take care of everything. You were cleaning them out. Twice a day. During when they could go out in the pasture, you only had to clean once a day. Sometimes you probably didn’t even once a day.

SL: We had to scrape the barn.
BB: That was another job I did.

SL: Wash them [milk cans]. We only washed them once a day. We rinsed them at night, hang them up. They had racks that they hung up in. In the morning you took them apart. Now all they have it a teeny thing like that that milk goes into, tube goes in, and plug it into the other end. Put it on the cow and milk goes right in to the tank. That was the tough part for us as kids – carrying it. When we got our first bulk tank, it was probably 5’ tall. We put strainer on it. Used to get a bucket, get up on the bucket and put milk in the strainer. We were too short. It was almost as bad as putting the cans in the cooler. We didn’t have to handle them after. Actually hard work never hurt a person.

BB: I used to bake a lot. Probably after that 13 year with – if I baked –

SL: I hate to cut and run, but I’ve got to be at the VA at 3:00.

BB: You’ve got to go.

KO: We can pause or wrap it up.

BB: If I made cupcakes, I’d make 3 dozen vanilla, 3 dozen spice and 3 dozen chocolate. And with all of these boys they’d go quick. And then one day I really got in trouble because I decided I was going to double the bread recipe. Well, I had bread dough going all over. Mother was really yelling about that. Back then we made all our own bread and stuff.

SL: There was nothing like coming home from school having hot bread.

KO: Fresh bread is the best.

SL: She would take it out of the oven and we’d eat a whole loaf.

KO: I’ve occasionally made bread myself, but then I eat it myself and figure it’s a bad idea.

SL: It’s so much better than buying it at the store.

KO: It is.

BB: So we probably gave you enough –
<p>| 01:17:27 | KO: I like all these stories. I like having more than one sibling at a time, so thank you very much. |
| 01:17:27 | BB: And if I can find that thing that mother wrote – |
| 01:17:27 | KO: Yea, I’d like to see that. |
| 01:17:27 | BB: It must be in the box. She just died the end of February. |
| 01:17:27 | SL: She did that like October/November of 2011. |
| Mother’s illness | BB: It might have been summertime, but it wasn’t too long before she died. |
| 01:17:27 | SL: I thought it was October/November. |
| 01:17:27 | BB: She was amazing. I think she went to the dump on Monday before she was really sick and went in the hospital on Thursday, and was in the hospital at Dartmouth for a week and then in the hospital at APD for 6 weeks. And then came home for like 3.5 weeks. My cousin said, I just saw her. I think she did go on Monday. She would say, I’m really getting tired. I didn’t realize until the last time I went with her that her disease had gone into leukemia. And you didn’t either, right? |
| 01:17:27 | SL: No. And the doctor asked if she’d take chemotherapy and she said no way. She’d been taking it for a couple years. How come we didn’t know? |
| 01:17:27 | BB: She started taking these pills. But even right till the end, I think it was the time I had you help get her back in the house. The last time she went, well Kathy went the last time – I had to call him because she got part way up the steps because I’m trying to hold on and she’s telling me I’m dropping here. And she says you’ve got to call Scott. I’m saying how can I call Scott if my cell phone is in my car. And so she said, I’m just going to lean over the railing. She leaned over the railing and I went to the car and called him and I got her in. And then I thought we were going to get her out of the chair and into bed, what a day. |
| 01:17:27 | KO: Tough lady, huh? |
| 01:17:27 | SL: She was tired. You just can’t grab them and pick them up. We weren’t smart enough to put a towel on the car and pick her up. |
| 01:17:27 | KO: Good thought. |</p>
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<td><strong>SL:</strong> You have a towel on the outside so you can grab and lift them up. Once they get on their feet, they can go. But to get to that point.</td>
<td><strong>01:20:22</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>KO:</strong> Well before you go –</td>
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<td><strong>BB:</strong> Thank you.</td>
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<td><strong>KO:</strong> Thank you.</td>
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<td><strong>01:20:24</strong></td>
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